



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Philly Skates Free: Independence Blue Cross RiverRink Hosts Free Ice-Skating on January 31, Presented by Rivers Casino Philadelphia**

*Kicking-off America's 250<sup>th</sup> Year with a Birthday bash, including free skating, birthday treats, and festive programming to bring community together on ice*

**PHILADELPHIA (January 21, 2026) —** [\*\*Delaware River Waterfront Corporation \(DRWC\)\*\*](#), the nonprofit steward of the beloved **Independence Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest**, today announced it will host **Philly Skates Free** presented by [\*\*Rivers Casino Philadelphia\*\*](#) on **Saturday, January 31, 2026 from 11AM - 11PM**. Kicking off America's 250<sup>th</sup> Year with a birthday-themed celebration, Philly Skates Free invites the community to enjoy **FREE skating admission and skate rentals**, complimentary birthday cake while supplies last, half-off happy hour from 6PM - 10PM, and a lineup of fun festive surprises throughout the day.

"Philly Skates Free is about opening the Waterfront to everyone and creating a moment of joy that feels unmistakably Philadelphia," said **Joseph A. Forkin, president and CEO of the Delaware River Waterfront Corporation**. "As we celebrate America's 250th birthday all year long in Philadelphia, we're proud to kick things off with a free, welcoming celebration that brings neighbors together on the ice."

Philly Skates Free is part of DRWC's ongoing Winterfest season at the Independence Blue Cross RiverRink, Philadelphia's premier Waterfront destination for skating, tradition, and memories, opened through March 1st.

As part of a broader effort to create access to the Waterfront, DRWC designs welcoming spaces for all, with programs and initiatives that help reduce barriers and ensure Philadelphians can enjoy and access the Waterfront. Philly Skates Free is one of several opportunities this season that reflects DRWC's commitment to making the Waterfront an inclusive, joyful destination for the entire community.

"Philly Skates Free brings our community together to enjoy the Waterfront and celebrate Philadelphia during this historic year," said **Scott Lokke, general manager of Rivers Casino Philadelphia**. "We're proud to welcome residents and ensure the Delaware River Waterfront is part of the energy, excitement and shared experiences happening across the city."

Amplifying the birthday celebration, a special RiverRink cake-cutting will take place at noon with complimentary **birthday cake** for attendees while supplies last. **Free face painting** will take place from 12PM – 2PM, while **DJ entertainment** will take place in the Lodge from 6PM – 9PM. Food and drinks will be available for purchase from Winterfest vendors, including Chickie &

Pete's, Philly Taco, and Skelly's. Guests can also enjoy **half-off happy hour from 6PM - 10PM**, along with special birthday-themed menu items.

In addition to free skating, guests can enjoy a variety of on-site activations throughout the day. The **Philadelphia Visitor Center** will invite attendees to sign the Philly Phambassador pledge and enter a special prize raffle. **Ensemble Arts** will host a Lodge pop-up featuring promotions for upcoming shows, merchandise, and ticket giveaways, while **Wawa Welcome America** will also be on site with a ticket giveaway. **Jacquin's** will round out the experience with complimentary sampling and giveaways.

**Ticket reservation are required for January 31 and reservable online only at [RiverRink.com](http://RiverRink.com).** Each valid email address may reserve up to four tickets, which include skating admission and skate rentals. **Tickets must be reserved online** and available while supplies last to ensure a comfortable skating experience throughout the day. All other Winterfest activities are pay-as-you-go.

#### **Why you don't want to miss Philly Skates Free Day:**

- **Skate all day for FREE** (including skate rentals) — 11AM to 11PM
- **Take in Waterfront views** at Independence Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest — all day
- **Celebrate with birthday cake + free face painting** — 12PM to 2PM (while supplies last)
- **Skate to DJ vibes + enjoy half-off happy hour** — 6PM to 10PM
- **Enter to win prizes** and enjoy fun surprises — throughout the day

For more information, visit [RiverRink.com](http://RiverRink.com). To stay up to date on DRWC happenings throughout the year, please visit [delawareriverwaterfront.com](http://delawareriverwaterfront.com).

#### **ABOUT DELAWARE RIVER WATERFRONT CORPORATION:**

The Delaware River Waterfront Corporation (DRWC) is the nonprofit responsible for planning, developing, and maintaining public spaces along Philadelphia's Central Delaware River Waterfront. With a mission to create a welcoming and connected Waterfront for all, DRWC blends design, culture, and community to transform formerly industrial land into beloved public destinations. DRWC's year-round programming, parks, and trails—including Spruce Street Harbor Park, Cherry Street Pier, Race Street Pier, and the Delaware River Trail—welcome hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. Through thoughtful placemaking and strategic investment, DRWC continues to shape a vibrant waterfront that reflects the spirit of Philadelphia and strengthens its future. Learn more at [delawareriverwaterfront.com](http://delawareriverwaterfront.com).

#### **ABOUT INDEPENDENCE BLUE CROSS RIVERINK:**

Produced by DRWC, the Independence Blue Cross RiverRink is Philadelphia's premier Waterfront destination for skating, tradition, and memories. For over 30 years, it has welcomed families and visitors of all ages to enjoy seasonal traditions set against the scenic backdrop of the Delaware River and the Ben Franklin Bridge. Independence Blue Cross RiverRink is open seasonally, transforming into Winterfest, a

cozy, holiday-themed ice-skating retreat in the winter – and Summerfest, a lively boardwalk experience with roller skating in warmer months. As part of a larger effort to create access to the Waterfront, it is a welcoming space for all, with programs to support community access to skating and free admission for Independence Blue Cross members, the region's largest health insurer, to promote greater accessibility.

#### **ABOUT RIVERS CASINO PHILADELPHIA**

Located along the Delaware River waterfront in Fishtown, Rivers Casino Philadelphia features more than 1,500 slots, 70 table games, 47 hybrid and automated gaming seats, a 28-table poker room, and a designated sportsbook area for live sports betting. The casino offers \$10 blackjack 24 hours a day, seven days a week, plus select table games with a \$5 minimum are available daily. Dining options in the casino's Marketplace include Rita's Italian Ice, Dunkin', Sapore Slice and a grab-and-go deli. The casino also offers an array of distinctive restaurants and bars — among them are Sapore, a welcoming Italian kitchen; Mian, featuring authentic Asian cuisine; and FLIPT, which serves classic burgers and shakes. Guests can enjoy riverfront views, live performances in The Event Center, free parking and daily promotions and giveaways. Riversuites at The Battery is the casino's luxury boutique hotel. For additional information and current offers, please visit [RiversCasino.com/Philadelphia](http://RiversCasino.com/Philadelphia).

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